

The Progressive Farmer.

L. L. POLK, Editor.
Raleigh, N. C.

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MECKLENBURG COUNTY ALLIANCE.

This body met with Derita Alliance on the 21st inst. President N. Gibbon makes an earnest and efficient presiding officer and commands the respect and hearty co-operation of all the members.

The Alliance was opened in due form, and upon a verification of certificates it was found that four Alliances were represented. The officers and members took right hold of the business and made it a most interesting meeting. The Secretary presented the charter just received from the National Alliance.

An election of an Executive Committee for the County Alliance resulted in the selection of J. A. Wilson, Jno. Rich and Dr. W. W. Gaither. Mr. R. B. Caldwell was elected Business Agent.

A resolution was adopted requesting Sub-Alliances to elect their business agents and make report of same to the next meeting of the County Alliance, and this action brought out a most interesting discussion.

A capital suggestion was made by Capt. S. B. Alexander. He thought the members of all the Alliances could use the Agents as a convenient medium for advertising whatever they had for exchange with brother members. If, for instance, a brother had any kind of stock or poultry or produce of any kind, that he wants to exchange for something else produced on the farm, he could easily let it be known to his brethren through his agent, and it would be found a great convenience in many instances. We frequently have something which a brother wants and needs, and not knowing it, each of us send off for it and pay more than we would have to do in exchange. Let us advertise with and through each other, by means of our business agents.

The necessity for a rapid organization of the order throughout the whole county was discussed with evident interest by quite a number of the members, and it was agreed to push it vigorously.

President Alexander and Secretary

Polk stated the difficulties that had to be overcome under our new organization, but that we had reached a point when daylight is breaking in all around and soon they hoped to have a strong and well-equipped force of organizers in the field, and that the whole State would be canvassed as soon as possible. Secretary Polk made a statement in regard to the progress of organization and to the enthusiastic spirit with which it is received by the people everywhere.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the President to appoint not less than twelve delegates, to attend the annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, which convenes in the city of Greensboro on the 2nd Wednesday in January next.

The following was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to investigate the feasibility and expediency of the establishment of a Grain Elevator and Patent Roller Flouring Mill by this Alliance, and report at the next meeting of this body.

Capt. Alexander made a good speech in advocacy of the resolution. Only a few days ago a friend showed him an old newspaper published in Camden, South Carolina, in which a firm 30 years ago advertised for 30,000 sacks of flour, and wanted it from the Catawba river farmers. He had seen himself the South Carolina Railroad ship 10,000 barrels of flour from Mecklenburg in one month. Now it takes almost that amount of Northern flour to do us. We have a splendid wheat country. He had produced, himself, as much as 31 bushels for one sown. He stated the difficulties which meet the wheat farmers of our State at every turn, and said we could and would get better prices and relief by the establishment of the mill and elevator. Mr. N. H. C. Elliott, of Texas, gave an interesting account of the roller mills (seventeen) in Texas, and which belong to the Alliance, and showed that the farmers realized good prices now for their wheat, how the money was secured for building, &c., &c. Mr. J. Springs Davidson said the day for delicately flavored old ham, rich milk, curly-tailed pigs and plenty and happiness had fled from the Southern farm. We must come back to the good old plan of making our own supplies at home, and also of the good old plan of controlling our own products. Twenty years ago he produced 44 1-2 bushels of wheat per acre and it could be done again, and it would be done if we will go to work and make a market for the wheat by building mills which can compete with Northern mills.

Mr. N. H. C. Elliott was asked to give a lecture on the business features of the order, and to exemplify the secret work, and the brethren showed the liveliest interest in the work. Questions were fired at him on all sides, and today the Mecklenburg County Alliance is well posted in all these matters.

Capt. Alexander, J. Springs Davidson, C. W. McKay, E. M. Lyles, R. B. Caldwell and others spoke in most complimentary terms of the character and utility of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its inestimable value to the order and to the farmers of the State. They wanted to see it in every farmer's family and they could not see how any member of the Alliance could do without it. (We thank the brethren for a handsome club.)

It was a most enjoyable and profitable meeting, and it will stimulate our members to greater effort. It was a most harmonious and progressive session and will do good.

The Alliance, after ordering the proceedings to be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication, adjourned to meet with Beach Cliff Alliance on the first Friday in January.

We need fifty good, substantial men to act as organizers of the Farmers' Alliance in this State.

DR DABNEY'S SUCCESSOR.

A correspondent from Siler City comes before our readers in this issue and introduces Mr. Haigh, of Fayetteville, very gracefully and presents his claims to the Board of Agriculture for the position of State Chemist.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER took occasion, when the claims of Dr. Battle were being urged, sometime ago, to say that we are for a native North Carolinian for this above all others, provided we have the man who is in every way competent and fitted for its difficult and responsible duties. First, we would have a North Carolinian. Second, we would have the best qualified North Carolinian. As between Dr. Battle and Dr. Haigh, whose names have been presented in this connection, we express no choice, for we know but little of the qualifications of either of these young gentlemen. We stand by our young men. They ought to be encouraged in every legitimate way. North Carolina and North Carolinians have not appreciated our young men. This paper will lend all its best efforts to encourage and advance worthy young men. And while we feel this we must say frankly that in filling the position in question it is one of too much importance to the material and educational interests of our State to be in any way governed by sentiment. It is almost certain that in addition to the highly important duties already imposed by the law on our State Chemist, he will be placed in charge of the Department of Chemistry in our Agricultural and Mechanical College. And whatever may be his attainments in the laboratory, it occurs to us that a certain measure of experience would be essential to a proper and efficient discharge of these important trusts. And, if, to find such a man, or one who is fully and thoroughly equipped for the work, it became necessary to go outside the State, we would not hesitate to do so. If Dr. Haigh or Dr. Battle can "fill the bill," we would rejoice at a home recognition of his qualifications by placing him in charge of our Experiment Station.

TWO IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

By reference to the proceedings of the Mecklenburg County Alliance, held on last Monday, it will be seen that the Alliance in that county means business. It will be remembered that at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, held in this city on the 19th ult., an urgent request was made to the farmers of the State to see that their respective counties are properly represented in the Farmers' Convention to be held in Greensboro on the 2nd Wednesday in January next. The Mecklenburg Alliance will see that county is strongly represented. The farmers of every county in the State should take similar action immediately. It is important and should have prompt attention. Reduced rates on railroads and at hotels will be secured for delegates. Let it be the largest and best Farmers' Convention ever held in the State.

Mecklenburg is a fine wheat county. It is located in a fine wheat section. Charlotte is a splendid railroad center. The farmers have almost abandoned the raising of wheat in that section. They could not control the price. Speculators, gamblers and pools have it completely under their control. Bur-mill flour is a thing of the past. Roller flouring mills have driven it from the market. With a commodious grain elevator at Charlotte and a good patent roller flouring mill, the farmers can manage to get the value of their wheat. It will be built. And then we may expect to see not one, but two, three or four follow, and they will be built throughout the wheat-growing belt of our State, provided the farmers will first organize and determine that it shall be done. By and through organization we can do almost anything; without it we can do nothing.

IS THE SOUTH PROSPERING?

We extract the following from the report of the Committee on Program, read before the Inter-State Convention of Farmers at Atlanta, August 16th. It is a question of vital concern to all our people:

To the question: Does the Supposed

Agricultural Depression Exist? The answer is emphatic—it exists, is widespread, deep, and long-continued. It is a case of languishing and pining sickness—a sort of typhoid case.

Witness the opinions of leading statesmen and close observers in every State, the opinions of leading farmers, the still stronger opinions of less successful farmers, the strong opinion of the preliminary conference, the call of this Inter-State Convention of Farmers. Witness also the occasional going under, after long strugglings, of old farmers, still seen from time to time—the fact that good farmers are just above water (the righteous scarcely saved, and witness; also, the opinions of intelligent merchants and bankers who deal with the farmers. Hear the cry, also, of those who are told to "keep out" of debt, and who answer, "Tell us how to 'get out'—we must get out before we can keep out." The rate of increase in wealth would furnish additional light. In agricultural land: 1857 to 1860, three years, at \$8,250,000 a year, \$25,000,000, 1871 to 1886, fifteen years, at \$666,666 a year, \$10,000,000. Gold value counter-balanced partly by improved returns and by the Jevons principle of estimating value.

We perhaps ought to show what the true standard of prosperity is, as shown in our own early history, and in the condition of States and peoples still prospering. The agricultural interests, however, of the whole country languish in comparison with certain other interests. We have a common cause, yet no enemies, and wish to explain, not to complain. We conclude, therefore, with the profound conviction that the agricultural interests of the South are languishing and depressed to a distressing degree, and that the chief interests of the South—that of nearly two-thirds of its people—are therefore suffering now, have been suffering for twenty years, and that the outlook is not favorable.

Before entering upon the discussion of the causes and remedies of the agricultural depression, let us briefly review some pertinent facts of history:

HALF FORGOTTEN HISTORY

Few remember how the South once took the lead in population and wealth. The order of States (the eight leading States) at the first census in 1790 was: Virginia, 747,000; Pennsylvania, 434,000; North Carolina, 394,000; Massachusetts, 379,000; New York, 340,000; Maryland, 320,000; South Carolina, 250,000; Connecticut, 238,000. The four leading Southern States had 1,711,000 people, the four leading Northern States 1,391,000.

Second census, 1800: Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Maryland, Connecticut.

Third census, 1810: Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Kentucky, Maryland.

Fourth census, 1820: New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, Massachusetts, South Carolina.

Virginia held the first place till 1820. North Carolina the third or fourth till 1830. In 1840 the three leading States were the same as now: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio. In 1860, Virginia alone of the Southern list of 1790 remained, now in 1880 not one remains. When immigration began on a large scale the South was rapidly left behind in the race. Since 1840 there have been 10,000,000 of immigrants, of which the South received very few. By the census of 1880, of Georgia, for example, the foreign-born population of the State is not three-fourths of one per cent.

THE NEGRO.

This is too big a subject—we can only hint and suggest. It is not his fault that the negro is here. He did not ask to come. Coming by force he has behaved wonderfully well, before, during and since the war. But the negro is the most wonderfully expensive experiment the world has ever seen. Better would the first slave ship have imported war, pestilence and famine combined, than of slaves. The climate brought and concentrated the negro, and kept out the European from the South. His presence, not his mere status, is the trouble. He is not, whether slave or free, the equal of the white man, and he has kept out the white man. For this he is not to blame.

White people are very insolent and self-willed. They found here the red man, and him they killed or drove away. The yellow man they left in for a time, and now they drive him back. They brought in the black man by sheer force, and the involuntary immigration of the negro has pre-

vented the voluntary influx of the Europeans. Our best and most desirable immigration is that of Northern men in place of Europeans. They come already nine tenths assimilated, and the second generation is Southern.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON WEALTH.

The wealth of Georgia was, in 1850, \$335,000,000; in 1860, \$672,000,000. An increase of over 100 per cent. The wealth in 1870, after the war, was but, greenbacks, \$226,000,000; gold, \$189,000,000. At the old rate of increase, the wealth would have been in gold \$1,227,000,000. That is, over one billion of dollars more than it really was in 1870. What would it not have been in 1880? What in 1886? The great States of the Northwest, with which we were partially keeping pace, answer the question—our wealth would have been expressed in billions, instead of millions.

The reduction of the property of the white population exceeded \$800 per head, if the decade after 1860 had increased it has that before 1860.

The French indemnity of one billion of dollars, levied on 37,000,000 of people, was less than \$30 per head—not one part in twenty-five of the relative loss of the whites in Georgia, with 1,250,000 of people. But we are here not to consider the losses of the war, nor to complain, but to consider the long continuance of the depression—its causes and remedies. Why are we so slow in recuperation?

The political economists—Mill especially—taught and confirmed by history, concur in the view that recuperation after war may and should be rapid. We have not reached in twenty years, the state we should have attained in five or seven years. Though we had heavy losses of men, we were not depopulated, and the blacks, though emancipated, were still here. The ploughshare of war had stirred society to its very depths, carried people hundreds of thousands of miles from home, who otherwise would never have seen so much of the world and its ways, had inverted society as with a turning-plow—given new ideas, arated new strata, and amongst the consequences, enlarged ideas of life and the scale of living, and made it higher. Thus some good results, as well as evil, vastly predominated. The war closed in April or May, 1865—just too late for a crop. Thus was one full year lost. In 1866, a heavy drought occurred and the crop was small, but prices high. Indeed they ranged high for several years—though the fall in 1867 was fearful.

One remarkable result was that the lessons of economy learned in the war were largely lost. Men who were worth \$25,000, now were worth but \$5,000, yet felt as rich as ever. Some of them had, in 1866, the best income they ever enjoyed. And so then was a re-establishment of the old scale of living. The lessons of economy, learned slowly, were spilled fast and quick.

At the close of the war there were no goods, no merchandise, broken railroads, no ditches, no fences, no nothing. Everything was to buy—clothes, furniture, blankets—what not? But cotton was high and the people soon spoiled. The lessons of economy, however, soon had to be relearned, under very hard experience.

The people, meanwhile, have conformed and gone to work—to hard, downright work—as gallant and heroic as that of war itself. They have shown a stamina and pluck worthy of the highest commendation. Farming is work, not play. Farming here has cost sweat of brow and brain, and heart. Necessity being the mother of invention, it has caused much thinking; anxiety has caused much worry of heart.

Your committee, therefore conclude that the agriculture of the cotton States is in a depressed condition, and that such condition is so widespread, long-continued and distressing as to demand the most serious consideration, and fully justifying this assemblage of the representatives of our agriculture. The suggestion and discovery of the causes of this depression and the proper remedies for the same are well worthy the profoundest efforts of our wisest men. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

Sam'l Barnett, of Ga., Chairman.
C. W. Macune, of Texas,
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H. C. Springfellow, of Louisiana,
R. H. Hord, of Tennessee,
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